



HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF...

EASTER

At this point in the school year, life is running at full speed. Spring sports, school projects, \$10 for this, \$10 for that—and right in the middle of it all comes one of the most important holidays of all, Easter.

Easter is when we remember Jesus's death and resurrection, when our sin was paid for by His sacrifice, and the hope of a new life was given with His empty tomb.

It's not something we want to just get through. We want to pause long enough to honor this momentous event, reflect on what it means for our faith, and then celebrate it with our families. Here are a few simple ways to make the most of Easter as a family.

GROW YOUR OWN EASTER GRASS. Avoid plastic grass sticking to your bare feet for the next month by picking up a container of wheat berries and growing your own Easter grass. New growth and the beauty of spring is a good reminder of the message of Easter—of the resurrection, and of our new life in Christ. Look up instructions on how to grow wheatgrass and grow it right in your kid's Easter basket. (Bonus: wheatgrass is a healthy addition to smoothies!)

PLAY THE SHELL CRACK GAME. Make a dozen or so hard-boiled eggs. (Go the extra mile and decorate them as a family!) Have each person choose an egg and face off against another family member. The goal is to smash the small end of one egg against an opponent's. One will crack, while the other won't. The person with the unbroken shell moves on to the next round!

EGG THE NEIGHBORS. The biggest thing we can do to honor the cross is to go and love others. Show your neighbors some love this Easter by making a basket of Easter goodies. Include a slip of paper that says, "You've been egged!" Then, ring the neighbor's doorbell, leave the basket by the door, and run!

MAKE PEEP S'MORES. This one speaks for itself! Heat source + graham crackers + chocolate + Peeps = a family tradition you'll look forward to all year. Because the most fun way to celebrate anything is by making delicious things to eat—together!

HAVE AN EGG HUNT AT NIGHT. Snap some glow sticks and carefully place them in a few plastic Easter eggs along with a Scripture verse or words of encouragement (you may need to tape them shut). Hide the eggs at sunset and wait until it's fully dark to do your glow-in-the-dark egg hunt! After they've been retrieved, enjoy some sweet treats and have everyone read their slips of paper.

A NOT SO GOOD FRIDAY. Good Friday, the Friday before Easter, is when we recognize the day Jesus died on the cross. As a family, gather and tell stories about when something was really bad, even hopeless, but the end result was better than you thought. Share how the disciples thought things were hopeless, that Jesus was dead, but then He was resurrected. Then celebrate by doing something better than your family expects with a surprise dessert.

FOR OLDER KIDS. As a family, read through the final days of Jesus in the Bible. (Read Matthew 21–28; Mark 14–16; Luke 22–24; and/or John 18–20.) Have each person read a chapter aloud. If the story is familiar, challenge everyone to notice something new about the story that they didn't see before and share it. Also, talk about what the story means to you personally.

